

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MEXICO 15113 01 OF 02 140025Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----127296 140034Z /62
P 132357Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2621

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 15113

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO PETER BENSINGER, DEA;
MATHEA FALCO, S/NM; PETER VAKEY, ARA

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

1. SUMMARY: IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, APPARENTLY AT THE REQUEST OF ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA SPOKE INFORMALLY WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE ATTACHE BERNAL ABOUT A PERCEIVED "RIFT" BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND DEA REGARDING COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. BAEZA CITED A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND WAS ADVISED BY BERNAL THAT THIS WAS A MATTER THAT SHOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN UP BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH THE AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE OUTSET, BAEZA AVERRED HE AND AG FLORES DISCUSSED THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM SITUATION AS THEY SAW IT, AND IT WAS THE AG'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER FOR A JUDGMENT AND SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. BAEZA, VERY CALMLY AND IN A QUITE COMPOSED MANNER, STATED THEY WERE BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE A RIFT IN OUR RELATIONS BASED ON WHAT THEY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 15113 01 OF 02 140025Z

CONSIDERED TO BE DISTRUST (SIC - DESCONFIANZA) AND WHAT APPEARED TO BE A "SLOWING DOWN" PROCESS IN REGARD TO ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS. BAEZA FURTHER UNDERSCORED THE LATTER POINT WITH COMMENTS ON THE USG LACK OF RESOLVE IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE RECENT NORML LAWSUIT PLUS THE INORDINATE AMOUNT OF DISTRACTIONS AND LOSS OF TIME DUE TO NUMEROUS VISITS AND EXCHANGES OF LETTERS AND DOCU-

MENTS OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

3. BAEZA FURTHER STATED HE DETECTED A DEMORALIZATION PROCESS WITHIN THE ZONE COORDINATOR RANKS BASED ON RECENT COMMENTS DURING THE COORDINATOR'S CONFERENCE (4 - 5 SEPTEMBER). BAEZA EXPLAINED THAT SOME COORDINATORS VOICED THEIR COMPLAINTS ON THE MANNER THEY PERCEIVE DEA USES THEM AND LATER DISCARDS THEM OR TURNS AGAINST THEM. ANOTHER SITUATION WHICH TENDS TO EXACERBATE FEELINGS, ACCORDING TO BAEZA, RESULTS FROM FUNDS ALLEGEDLY PAID BY DEA FOR INFORMATION OR SERVICES WHICH MAY IN MANY INSTANCES BE SLANTED TOWARDS WHAT RECIPIENT BELIEVES DEA DESIRED TO HEAR. BAEZA WAS REMINDED THAT DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MATTER AND THAT HE WAS READILY AVAILABLE AS IN THE PAST, DISCUSSIONS OF THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE MATTERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH BAEZA IN MEETINGS INVOLVING DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SPECIAL ASSISTANT, AND ASSISTANCE ATTACHE. BAEZA ATTEMPTED TO MOLLIFY THE SUGGESTION BY STATING THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF COMMUNICATION. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS COMMENT, HE SUMMONED HIS SECRETARY WHO DELIVERED A FILE OF REPORTS ALLEGEDLY COMPILED BY THE AG OFFICE DURING THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN "OPERATION PEGLEG" AND NOTED THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM DEA ON THEIR SUBMITTALS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 15113 01 OF 02 140025Z

4. IN THE COURSE OF HIS COMMENTS, BAEZA CITED THE RODOLFO HERRERA CASE AS AN INVESTIGATION WHICH LACKED THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION BUT WHICH THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE. CONVERSELY, HE EXPLAINED THE OFFICE OF THE AG RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF A HIGH-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER WHO HAD WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THEM ON NARCOTICS MATTERS BUT, DUE TO HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH NARCOTICS, THE CASE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. BAEZA DID NOT VOLUNTEER FURTHER DETAILS ON THE CASE OF THE MILITARY OFFICER. HE RAISED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE EMBASSY COULD APPRECIATE THE AG OFFICE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS OF SIGNIFICANT FRAUD CASES PERPETRATED BY FORMER CABINET-LEVEL OFFICERS AND HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. HE PROVIDED THE RATIONALE THAT THEY TOO MUST SORT OUT PRIORITIES AND ONLY PROSECUTE THOSE CASES WHERE THEY HAVE CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE. BAEZA EMPHASIZED THIS POINT BY RECALLING THE WIDELY PUBLICIZED STATEMENT BY FORMER AG ROBERT KENNEDY WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION FROM THE U.S. LABOR UNIONS IN THE MID-SIXTIES.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 MEXICO 15113 02 OF 02 140032Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----127429 140039Z /62

O 142357Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2622

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 15113

EXDIS

CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE. BAEZA EMPHASIZED THIS POINT BY RECALLING THE WIDELY PUBLICIZED STATEMENT BY FORMER AG ROBERT KENNEDY WHEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION FROM THE U.S. LABOR UNIONS IN THE MID-SIXTIES

5. BAEZA SUMMED UP HIS POINTS AND SOLICITED AN UNBIASED JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEIR PERCEPTIONS WERE VALID. ON THE OPERATIONAL ROLE ENTRUSTED TO DEA WITH THE IMPLICATIONS ESPOUSED BY BAEZA, HE WAS INFORMED THAT THIS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH WITH DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND RESOLVED THROUGH AN OPEN AND CANDID DIALOGUE AS IN THE PAST. ON THE MATTER PERTAINING TO A PERCEIVED SLOW-UP BY THE USG, AND THE SO-CALLED RIFT DUE TO MISTRUST, IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED DUE TO THE UNPRECEDENTED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY-78 AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MEXICAN PROGRAM WAS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY DUE TO THE NORML LAWSUIT; HOWEVER, BAEZA WAS ADVISED THAT IF THE AG HIMSELF PERCEIVED A PROBLEM DEVELOPING IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE EMBASSY. BAEZA WAS REMINDED THAT HE HAD MADE THE STATEMENT TO THE MITRE CORPORATION TEAM DURING A LENGTHY MEETING THAT THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN COULD NOT STAND ALONE AND THE OFFICE OF THE AG PLANNED TO INTENSIFY ITS ENFORCEMENT (SIC - REPRESION)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 15113 02 OF 02 140032Z

ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS.

6. IN CLOSING, BAEZZ INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS THE CONVERSATION WITH THE ATTTTNEY GENEAL AND WOULD PROPOSE EITHER A MEETING BETWEEN THE AG AND THE AMBASSADOR OR AUTHORIZATION TO REERESENT HIM AT A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR.

7. EMBASSY COMMENTS: DURING SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR ON AG OFFICE CLAIMS, DEA DENIED THAT THEIR ACTIONS HAVE RESULTED IN ANY DEMORALIZATION OF MEXICAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OR COORDINATORS. DEA ALSO DEMONSTRATED THAT IT HAS IN FACT PROVIDED REFERENCED RESSONSES REGARDING OOPERATION PEGLEG TO AG'S OFFICE. DEA RECOGNIZES CURRENT LESS-FRIENDLY INTERACTION WITH AG'S OFFICE AND REGARDS THIS AS RELATING TO PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE HERRERA-NEVAREZ CASE. AT BAEZA'S REQUEST, IT IS LIKELY THAT DCM FERCH AND CONSUL GENERAL MCANINCH WILL MEET WITH BAEZA ON THIS SUBJECT ON SATURDAY. TIMELY VISIT BY SENIOR NARCOTICS ADVISER MATHEA FALCO MAY PROVIDE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER INTO INCISIVE AND REALISTIC DISCUSSIONS FOR LOG-TERM SOLUTIONS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CONTINUED BILATEERAL NARCOTICS COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. BAEZA'S COMMENTS SUBSTANTIATE DEA'S BELIEF THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN DEA AND THE AG HAVE DETERIORATED AND SUGGEST THAT OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ALSO SUFFERING IN MEXICAN EYES. THE ATTITUDE OF UNHAPPINESS THAT BAEZA COMMUNICATED IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE PARTICULAR FACTS OR DETAILS HE RECITED. WHETHER THE AG IS CONVEYING A MESSAGE BECAUSE OF THE HERRERA CASE, WHETHER PRE-EXISTING IRRITANTS HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE CASE, OR WHETHER QUITE INDEPENDENT OF THE CASE, THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS EROSION OF GOOD WILL BETWEEN THE AG'S OFFICE AND DEA IS SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 15113 02 OF 02 140032Z

NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND EXPECTS TO HAVE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AG DURING THE VISIT OF SENIOR NARCOTICS ADVISOR FALCO. LUCEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO15113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780373-0184
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780972/aaaachlb.tel
Line Count: 216
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04095851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1454300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS
TAGS: SNAR, MX, DEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04095851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014